

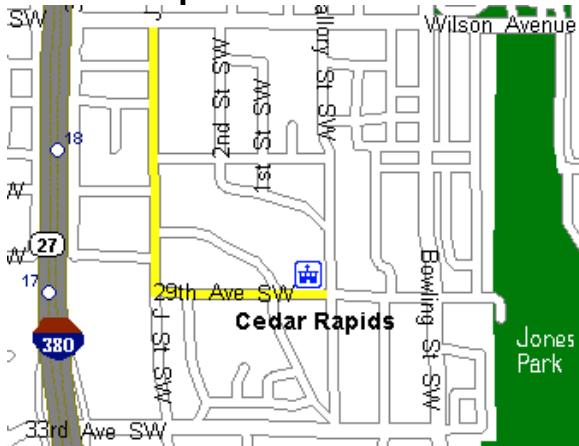


Hus Presbyterian Church

2808 Schaeffer Drive SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

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3 Blocks East of J Street SW on 29th Ave SW

Shining the light! *Matthew 5:16*

Hus Presbyterian Church

www.huschurch.org

Hus Happenings

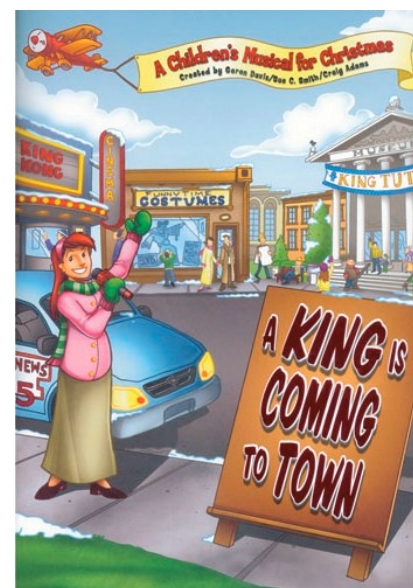
The Wissmann Family



*Fifteen pairs of shoes. Twelve instruments.
Thirteen siblings. One vehicle.
One family. One purpose.*




December 2nd at 6:30 PM

Hus Church proudly presents:



Sunday, December 17th

December

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|--|---|---|--|---|------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Choir Party at the Page's home- 5 PM |
| 3 Worship Service - 9:30 AM Play Practice - 11 AM Youth serving at 1 st Presbyterian Church for Sunday Evening Meal 4 - 6 PM The Wissman's in Concert- 6:30 PM | 4 Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM | 5 Quilters - 8:30 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM SW Area Neighbors meeting - 6:30 PM at Wilson School | 6 H.S. Bible Study at Marion HS - 7:30 AM Youth Group Movie Night - 5:15 PM Meal- 5:15 PM Choir- 7 PM Play Practice- 7:30 PM Worship Team- 8 PM | 7 H.S. Bible Study at Panera Bread - 5:30 PM Play Practice- 6:30 PM | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Worship Service - 9:30 AM Play Practice - 11 AM - 2 PM Confirmation-2 PM  Caroling- 2:30 PM | 11 Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM | 12 Quilters - 8:30 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM Play Practice- 6:30 PM | 13 H.S. Bible Study at Marion HS - 7:30 AM Meal- 5:15 PM Youth Group-5:45 PM | 14 H.S. Bible Study at Panera Bread - 5:30 PM Play Practice- 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study at the Page's - 7 PM | 15 | 16 Christmas Musical Dress rehearsal- 5 PM  |
| 17 Christmas Musical Service "A King Is Coming To Town" - 10 AM & 6 PM | 18 Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM | 19 Men's Breakfast- 7:30 AM Quilters - 8:30 AM Bible Study - 1:30 PM | 20 H.S. Bible Study at Marion HS - 7:30 AM Meal- 5:15 PM Youth Group-5:45 PM Choir- 6:45 PM Worship Team- 8 PM | 21 H.S. Bible Study at Panera Bread - 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study at the Page's - 7 PM | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Worship Service - 9:30 AM  Christmas Eve Service- 11 PM | 25  Christmas Day | 26 Quilters - 8:30 AM | 27 | 28 Lunch Bunch- 11:30 AM | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Worship Service - 9:30 AM | | | | | | |



Leaning Into Hope

Do you ever have those times when all the concerns of family, life, finances, job, friends, schedules, school, appointments, and physical needs seem to pile up on you? If this ever happens to you, how do you feel? Tired, agitated, angry, anxious, and fearful?

Most of us have very busy lives, but every now and then, I think most of us also have those moments when we get a good glimpse of all the different concerns we are juggling at the same time, and we wonder how in the world we can keep managing it all!

This is a danger for us all, and Jesus points out that this can cause us to lose focus on God and what God is doing for us. When we lose this focus, we lose hope. And hope is what makes us able to meet all the challenges in our lives, to face all the difficulties, and to handle all the problems. In speaking to His disciples about the importance of hope, He said: "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap." (Luke 21:34)

Now, we don't think of ourselves as people who are necessarily into "dissipation" or "drunkenness," but what about the "anxieties of life?" How many of us find ourselves in an all too familiar relationship with these? If we focus on our anxieties without looking at the promises we have in Christ, then our lives can start looking pretty bleak.

This is how important hope is! Hope that is real and not just wishful thinking comes through knowing Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. It is trusting Him not only with our problems, but the problems of the entire world. This is what gives us the strength to live above our circumstances rather than under them, and to not be overcome by the "anxieties of life."

I think of it as "leaning into hope." I may be weak and tired, but I can lean on God's promises in Jesus Christ, and they will hold me up. I may feel like quitting and giving in, but God's promises call me to move forward, so I "lean into" what God has for me in the road ahead. Hope is a vision of the future that gives us strength for the present, and God gives us this vision when we know Jesus, and keep getting to know Him better through prayer and reading of the Bible.

Many studies have shown that people tend to become depressed and "weighed down" more during the Christmas season than any other time of the year. Perhaps that is why so many people tend to increase their "dissipation" and "drunkenness" through partying and excessive shopping. It is an attempt to fill that emptiness of soul that only hope in Christ can fill. I invite you all to make this Christmas season truly filled with joy, peace, and love by not relying on your own strength to meet all life's challenges, but instead to receive the abundant strength of Jesus Christ.

Let's all "lean into hope."

In Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will". The letters are stylized and cursive, with a large 'W' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'l'.



DECEMBER



Happy Birthday!

Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Jason Cisler |
| | Pat Jones |
| | Javan Wilson |
| | Colton Wiedenmann |
| 3 | Caryl Schmidt |
| 7 | Ann Barta |
| 8 | Gary Dvorak |
| 9 | Joe Kurka |
| 11 | Jonathan Currie |
| 12 | Eulalia Johnson |
| 13 | Jeffrey Schulz |
| 15 | Venda Jasa |
| 16 | Alma Rompot |
| 17 | Bill Cabbage |
| | Amanda Trotman |
| 18 | Vlasta Fajmon |
| 20 | Justin Pierce |
| 21 | Steve Snyder |
| 22 | Rev. Will Jackson |
| 23 | Ron Wegner |
| 26 | Lincoln Currie |
| 28 | Alissa Brimeyer |
| 30 | Anna Drahovzal |

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

—Roy L. Smith



| | | |
|---|---------------------|----|
| 5 | Mr/Mrs Ken Kloubec | 59 |
| 7 | Mr/Mrs Dan Pierce | 15 |
| 7 | Mr/Mrs James Hutton | 49 |



Check us out online!

If you have access to a computer, go to
www.huschurch.org



Transportation for December,
please, contact Grace Ford
at 365-1922 before Sunday morning.

Finding God?

Occasionally, a troubled person may say something like, "My life's a mess. I've tried to handle my problems alone, but without success. Maybe I need to find God."

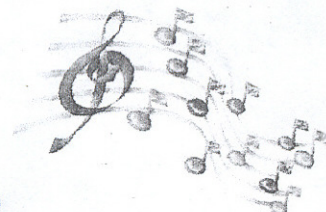
The truth is that God has been seeking them. That's the message of the Bible. The story after Adam and Eve sinned is the tale of God's searching for them. God called, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9, NRSV). Their guilt made them fearful of God, yet God sought them out — as a parent searching for his children.

When we spurn God, attempting to live life on our own terms, we alienate ourselves from the loving Creator. We suffer the consequences: guilt, shame, lack of inner peace, joylessness. Our lives lose real meaning and hope.

Christmas reminds us that God makes every effort to keep in touch with us. The arrival of Jesus Christ was God's most dramatic act of reaching out to us.

Jesus said, "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness" (John 12:46, NRSV). God was in Christ seeking us that we might find the fullness of life, which is the great gift for each of us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!
ON DECEMBER 3 HUS CHURCH WILL
HOST A UNIQUE CONCERT...



THE
WISSMANN
FAMILY

Free will offering

6:30 PM

Meet the Wissmans: mom, dad, and 13 children! Based in Seward, Nebraska, they are coming to share their musical talents and love of the Lord with Cedar Rapids.

The Wissmann family firmly believes that music was given to praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, they endeavor to keep a melodious and joyful undertone throughout each song.

Playing a variety of Christian/Gospel music, the family has chosen to make each song creative with both instrumentation and vocals. From the warm sweet sound of young children blending harmonies, to the more mature voices of the older siblings- the variety in each program is exciting and fresh.

The array of instruments includes: guitar, bass guitar, violin/fiddle, banjo, mandolin, harmonicas, hammered dulcimer, keyboard/piano, trumpet, flute, and harp.

Keeping everything with a Christian base, the Wissmanns enjoy bluegrass, gospel, original selections, patriotic numbers, and lots of good ole' hymn singin'.

Please invite friends and family to this great concert!

www.wissmannfamily.com

COME CAROLING

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH



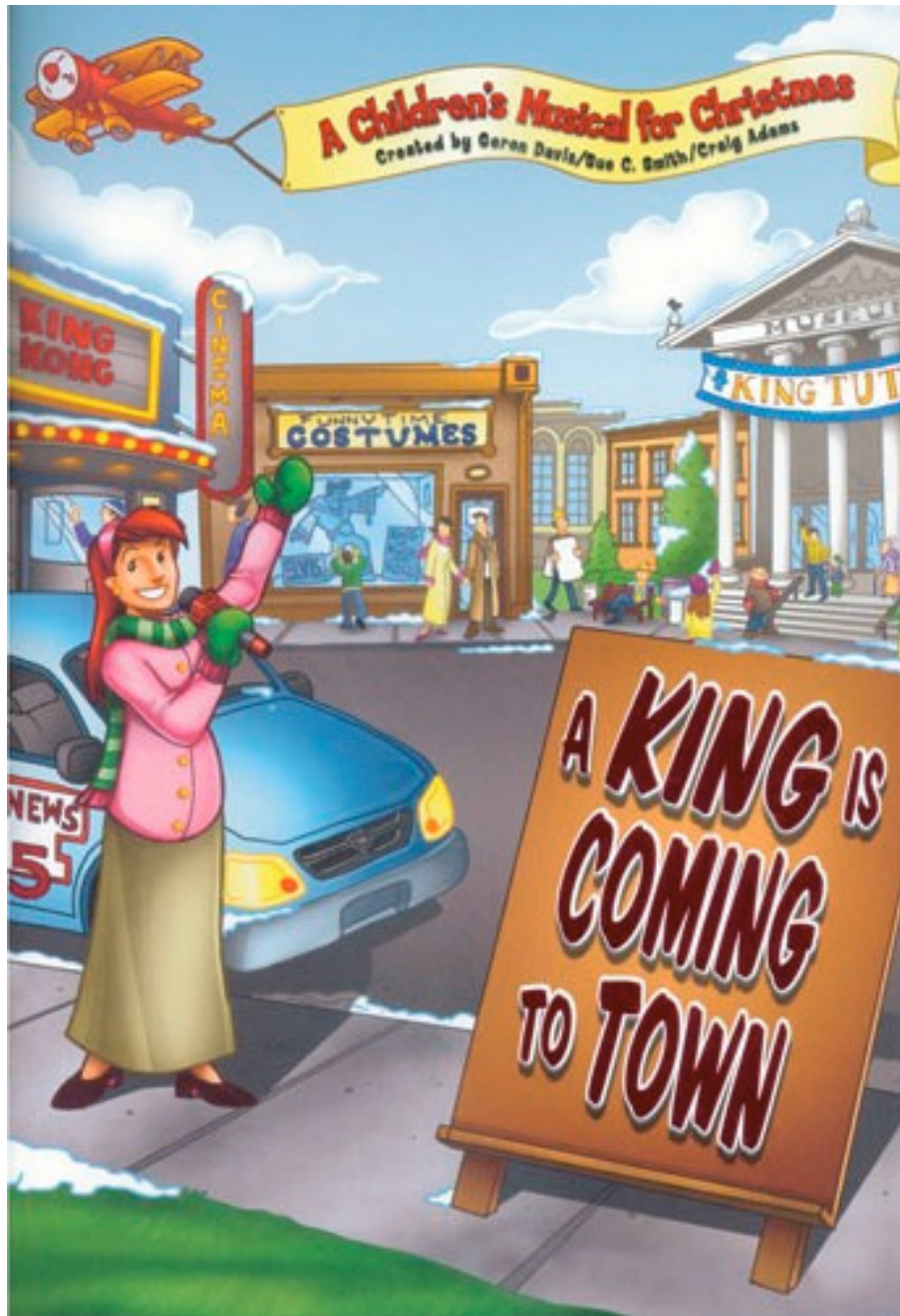
Start your Christmas season off right by sharing the love and joy of Christ with our care centers and homebound members and enjoy the fellowship that caroling always brings! Afterwards, meet back at the church to share a hot meal together.

Sign up sheets for caroling and food items will be in the narthex. Workers are also needed to help in the kitchen while the carolers are singing.

**Meet in the Fellowship Hall at
2:30 PM after Christmas
Musical practice.**

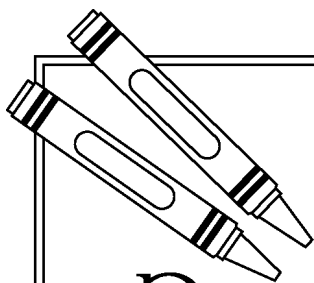


Hus Church proudly presents:



**December 17th
10 AM & 6 PM**

"A King is Coming to Town"... and you won't want to miss it. Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends.

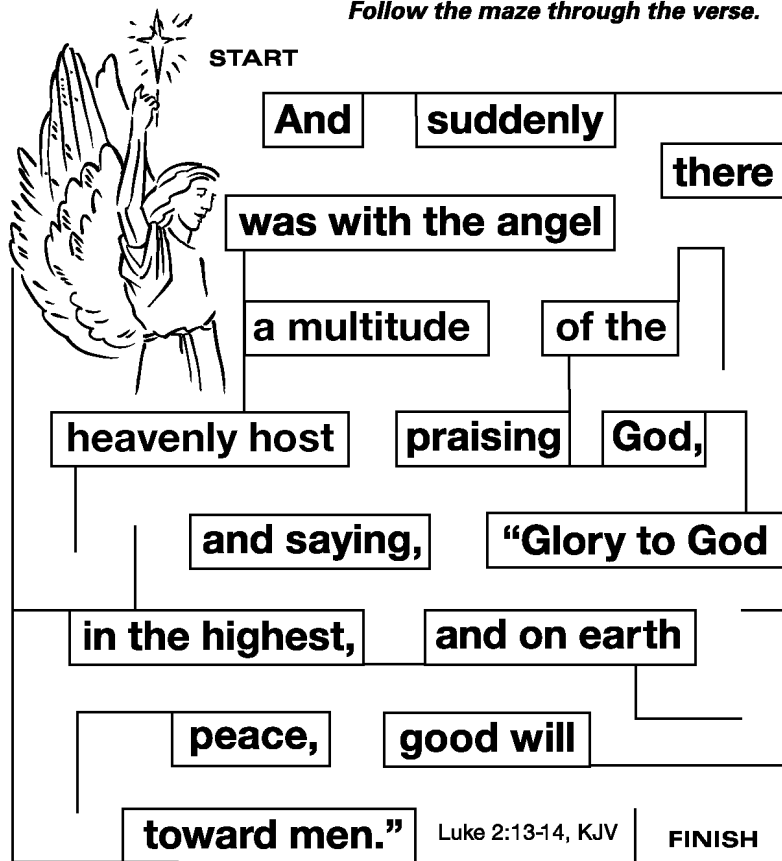


Just for KIDS

Peace on Earth

Do you remember what King Herod did when he heard about the birth of Jesus? He was so troubled that he issued a decree ordering the death of all male children younger than 2 years old. Jesus was not born in a time of peace, but we can look forward to His return and believe what the heavenly host proclaimed.

Follow the maze through the verse.



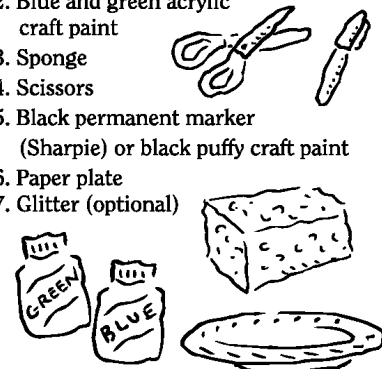
“Peace on Earth” Ornament



Make this Earth ornament as a reminder to pray for the peace Jesus will bring when he returns.

What you will need:

1. Clear glass ornament
2. Blue and green acrylic craft paint
3. Sponge
4. Scissors
5. Black permanent marker (Sharpie) or black puffy craft paint
6. Paper plate
7. Glitter (optional)



What you need to do:

1. Cut the sponge into 2 rectangles, about the size of your tallest finger.
2. Pour a little paint onto a plate. (Add glitter if you want your ornament to sparkle.)
3. Use one sponge for blue and one for green.
4. Dab the paint onto your glass ornament one color at a time. Use green for land and blue for ocean to make the ornament look like our planet Earth.
5. When the paint is dry, use the marker or puffy paint to write PEACE on the ornament.
6. Use your ornament as a Christmas decoration or give it as a present.





Believing On Our Master

December 2006



Hi All,

The story begins like something you might read in the headlines of a magazine or newspaper you see at the grocery store: "Family and friends shun young pregnant girl who claims she was made pregnant by the Holy Spirit." Imagine the ridicule that she endured. Today the news of this would have spread within an instant with the Internet. 2000 years ago it took a little bit longer. We can read this story in Matthew and Luke.

The Birth of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:18-25)

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus (*Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the LORD saves*), because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (*Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*)—which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-38)

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Over the years many books have been written and movies made about the birth of Jesus. On December 1st "The Nativity Story" will be released in theaters in the United States and Italy. I read an article on November 27th on CNN.com titled "Vatican hosts 'Nativity.'" According to the article this was the first time that a movie had been debuted there. About 7,000 people attended the screening. Pope Benedict XVI was not there as he was making an historic visit to Turkey to speak with leaders there. Director Catherine Hardwicke is quoted in the article:

Hardwicke praised "The Passion," but said she tried to do a more unifying film than Gibson's blockbuster about the last hours of Jesus Christ.

"There were some things he did that maybe were a little controversial. We wanted our film to be unifying and make the public see the similarities between religions instead of the differences," she said.

The article went on to say that Hardwicke wants to appeal to more than just the religious audiences. Once again we are provided with a movie that can be used as a wonderful outreach tool. This child that was born to a virgin would grow up to be our Savior, Jesus Christ. What an awesome story. I cannot wait to see this movie. Wouldn't it be awesome if we could go as a group? Hmmm ... now there is an idea worth pursuing. Merry Christmas and God Bless.

Because of Him,

Terry

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)



Believing On Our Master

December 2006



Upcoming Meetings

December

- Join us on the 6th for movie night beginning at 5:15 PM. This would be a great night to invite some friends, just let us know how many are coming so we can make sure that we have enough to eat (please be sure to bring \$3 to help cover the cost of the meal). Are you part of another youth group? Have your youth leader get a hold of us; we would love to have you join us!
- On the 13th, and 20th we will worship and fellowship from 5:45 to 6:45 PM. No youth group on the 27th as I am on vacation the last week of December.
- Confirmation for December will be on the 10th from 2 to 3:30 PM.
Events not scheduled yet will be announced as far in advance as possible so you can make plans to attend.

Upcoming Concerts/Events

December

- 3rd Youth serving the Sunday Evening Meal at 1st Presbyterian Church (Cedar Rapids) from 4 to 6 PM. We will bring the youth that want to attend the Wissmann Concert back to the church.
- 10th Confirmation 2 to 3:30 PM.
- 17th Christmas Musical - "A King Is Coming To Town" will be performed at 10 AM and 6 PM.

Every Monday: Youth Prayer Time, 7 PM from where ever you are.

Every Wednesday: Marion High School Bible Study
7:30 AM at Marion High School.

Every Thursday: High School Bible Study
5:30 PM at Panera Bread on the Collins Road NE.
Times subject to change.

A conversation with God

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Amen!



¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)